Numb. 70

The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

Quicquid agunt Homines nostri Farrago Libelli.

From *Saturday September* 17. to *Tuesday September* 20. 1709.

From my own Apartment, September 19.

THE following Letter, in Profecution of what I have lately aſſerted, has urg'd that Matter ſo much better than I had, that I inſert it as I receiv'd it. Theſe Teſtimonials are cuſtomary with us learned Men, and ſometimes are ſuſpected to be written by the Author; but I fear no one will ſuſpect me of this.

SIR, *London, September* 15. 1709.

'HAving read your Lucubrations of the 10th Inſtant, I can't but entirely agree with you 'in your Notions of the Scarcity of Men who can 'either read or ſpeak. For my Part, I have lived 'theſe 30 Years in the World, and yet have ob'ſerved but a very few who could do either in any 'tolerable Manner; among which few, you muſt 'underſtand that I reckon my ſelf. How far Elo'quence, ſet off with the proper Ornaments of 'Voice and Geſture, will prevail over the Paſſions, 'and how cold and unaffecting the beſt Oration in 'the World would be without 'em, there are Two 'remarkable Inſtances, in the Caſe of *Ligarius* and 'that of *Milo*. *Cæſar* had condemn'd *Ligarius*. He 'came indeed to hear what might be ſaid; but 'thinking himſelf his own Maſter, reſolved not to 'be byaſs'd by any Thing *Cicero* could ſay in his 'Behalf: But in this he was miſtaken; for when 'the Orator began to ſpeak, the Hero is moved, he 'is vanquiſh'd, and at length the Criminal abſol'ved. It muſt be obſerved, that this famous Ora'tor was leſs renown'd for his Courage than his 'Eloquence; for tho' he came at another Time, 'prepar'd to defend *Milo* with one of the 'beſt Orations that Antiquity has produc'd; 'yet being ſeiz'd with a ſudden Fear by ſeeing ſome 'arm'd Men ſurrounding the *Forum*, he falter'd in 'his Speech, and became unable to exert that irre'ſiſtible Force and Beauty of Action which would 'have ſaved his Client, and for Want of which he 'was condemn'd to Baniſhment. As the Succeſs 'the former of theſe Orations met with, appears 'chiefly owing to the Life and graceful Manner 'with which it was recited, (for ſome there are 'who think it may be read without Tranſport) ſo 'the latter ſeems to have fail'd of Succeſs for no o'ther Reaſon, but becauſe the Orator was not in a 'Condition to ſet it off with thoſe Ornaments. 'It muſt be confeſs'd, that artful Sound will with 'the Crowd prevail even more than Senſe; but 'thoſe who are Maſters of both, will ever gain the 'Admiration of all their Hearers: And there is, I 'think, a very natural Account to be given of this 'Matter; for the Senſation of the Head and Heart 'are cauſed in each of theſe Parts by the outward 'Organs of the Eye and Ear: That therefore which 'is convey'd to the Underſtanding and Paſſions 'by only one of theſe Organs, will not affect us ſo 'much as that which is tranſmitted through both. 'I can't but think your Charge is juſt againſt a 'great Part of the learned Clergy of *Great Britain*, 'who deliver the moſt excellent Diſcourſes with 'ſuch Coldneſs and Indifference, that 'tis no great 'Wonder the unintelligent Many of their Congre'gations fall aſleep. Thus it happens that their O'rations meet with a quite contrary Fate to that of '*Demoſthenes* you mentioned; for as that loſt much 'of its Beauty and Force by being repeated to the 'Magiſtrates of *Rhodes* without the winning Action 'of that great Orator, ſo the Performances of theſe 'Gentlemen never appear with ſo little Grace, and 'to ſo much Diſadvantage, as when deliver'd by 'themſelves from the Pulpit. *Hippocrates* being 'ſent for to a Patient in this City, and having felt 'his Pulſe, enquired into the Symptoms of his 'Diſtemper, and finding that it proceeded in great 'Meaſure from Want of Sleep, adviſes his Patient, 'with an Air of Gravity, to be carried to Church 'to hear a Sermon, not doubting but that it would 'diſpoſe him for the Reſt he wanted. If ſome of 'the Rules *Horace* gives for the Theatre, were (not 'improperly) applied to our Pulpits, we ſhould 'not hear a Sermon preſcribed as a good Opiate.

——— *Si vis me flere, dolendum eſt*
Primum ipſi tibi. ———

'A Man muſt himſelf expreſs ſome Concern and 'Affection in delivering his Diſcourſe, if he ex'pects his Auditory ſhould intereſt themſelves in 'what he propoſes: For otherwiſe, notwithſtan'ding the Dignity and Importance of the Subject 'he treats on; notwithſtanding the Weight and 'Argument of the Diſcourſe it ſelf, yet too many 'will ſay,

——— *Male ſi Mandata loqueris,*
Aut dormitabo, aut ridebo. ———

'If there be a Deficiency in the Speaker, there 'will not be a ſufficient Attention and Regard paid 'to the Things ſpoken: But, Mr. *Bickerſtaff*, you 'know, that as too little Action is cold, ſo too 'much is fulſome. Some indeed may think them'ſelves accompliſh'd Speakers, for no other Reaſon 'than becauſe they can be loud and noiſy; (for 'ſurely *Stentor* muſt have ſome Deſign in his Vo'ciferations.) But, dear Mr. *Bickerſtaff*, convince 'em, that as harſh and irregular Sound is not Har'mony; ſo neither is banging a Cuſhion, Oratory: 'And therefore, in my humble Opinion, a certain 'Divine of the Firſt Order, whom I allow other'wiſe to be a great Man, would do well to leave 'this off; for I think, his Sermons would be more 'perſwaſive, if he gave his Auditory leſs Diſtur'bance. Tho' I cannot ſay, that this Action would 'be wholly improper to a prophane Oration; yet, 'I think, in a Religious Aſſembly, it gives a Man 'too Warlike, or perhaps too Theatrical a Figure, 'to be ſuitable to a Chriſtian Congregation.

'I am, SIR,

Your Humble Servant, &c.

The moſt learned and ingenious Mr. *Roſehat* is alſo pleaſed to write to me on this Subject.

SIR,

'I Read with great Pleaſure in the *Tatler* of *Sa'turday* laſt the Converſation upon Eloquence; 'permit me to hint to you one Thing the 'great *Roman* Orator obſerves upon this Subject, '*Caput enim arbitrabatur Oratoris*, (he quotes *Mene'demus* an *Athenian*) *ut ipſis apud quos ageret talis 'qualem ipſe optaret videretur, id fieri Vitæ Dignitate.* 'It is the firſt Rule, That a Man muſt appear ſuch 'as he would perſwade others to be, and that can

'be accompliſh'd only by the Force of his Life. 'I believe it might be of great Service to let our 'publick Orators know, That an unnatural Gravi- 'ty, or an unbecoming Levity in their Behaviour 'out of the Pulpit, will take very much from the 'Force of their Eloquence in it. Excuſe another 'Scrap of *Latin*; 'tis from one of the Fathers: I 'think it will appear a juſt Obſervation to all, as 'it may have Authority with ſome; *Qui autem docent tantum, nec faciunt, ipſi Præceptis ſuis detrahunt Pondus; Quis enim obtemperet, cum ipſi Præceptores doceant non obtemperare?* I am,

SIR,

Your Humble Servant,

Jonathan Roſehat.

P. S. You were complaining in that Paper, That the Clergy of *Great-Britain* had not yet learn'd to ſpeak; a very great Defect indeed; and therefore I ſhall think my ſelf a Well-Deſerver of the Church in recommending all the dumb Clergy to the famous ſpeaking Doctor at *Kenſington*. This ingenious Gentleman, out of Compaſſion to thoſe of a bad Utterance, has plac'd his whole Study in the new modelling the Organs of Voice; which Art he has ſo far advanc'd, as to be able even to make a good Orator of a Pair of Bellows. He lately exhibited a Specimen of his Skill in this Way, of which I was inform'd by the worthy Gentlemen then preſent, who were at once delighted and amaz'd to hear an Inſtrument of ſo ſimple an Organiſation uſe an exact Articulation of Words, a juſt Cadency in its Sentences, and a wonderful *Pathos* in its Pronunciation; not that he deſigns to expatiate in this Practice, becauſe he cannot (as he ſays) apprehend what Uſe it may be of to Mankind, whoſe Benefit he aims at in a more particular Manner: And for the ſame Reaſon, he will never more inſtruct the Feather'd Kind, the Parrot having been his laſt Scholar in that Way. He has a wonderful Faculty in making and mending Echoes, and this he will perform at any Time for the Uſe of the Solitary in the Country, being a Man born for univerſal Good, and for that Reaſon recommended to your Patronage by, *Sir*, *Yours*,

Philalethes.

Another learned Gentleman gives me alſo this Encomium.

SIR, *September* 16.

'YOU are now got into an uſeful and noble Subject; take Care to handle it with Judg- 'ment and Delicacy. I wiſh every young Divine 'would give yours of *Saturday* laſt a ſerious Peruſal; and now you are entred upon the Action of 'an Orator, if you would proceed to favour the 'World with ſome Remarks on the myſtical Enchantments of Pronunciation, what a ſecret Force 'there is in the Accents of a tunable Voice, and where- 'fore the Works of Two very great Men of the Profeſſion could never pleaſe ſo well when read as 'heard, I ſhall trouble you with no more Scribble. 'You are now in the Method of being truly profitable and delightful. If you can keep up to ſuch great 'and ſublime Subjects, and purſue them with a 'ſuitable Genius, go on and proſper. *Farewel.*

White's Chocolate-houſe, September 19.

This was left for me here for the Uſe of the Company of the Houſe.

To Iſaac Bickerſtaff *Eſq*;

SIR, *September* 15.

'THE Account you gave lately of a certain Dog-kennel in or near *Suffolk-ſtreet* was not 'ſo punctual as to the Liſt of the Dogs, as might 'have been expected from a Perſon of Mr. *Bicker- 'ſtaff's* Intelligence; for if you'll diſpatch *Pacolet* 'thither ſome Evening, 'tis Ten to One but he finds, 'beſides thoſe you mention'd,

'*Towzer*, a large *French* Mongrel, that was not long ago in a tatter'd Condition, but has now 'got new Hair, is not fleet; but when he grapples, 'bites even to the Marrow.

'*Spring*, a little *French* Greyhound, that lately 'made a falſe Trip to *Tunbridge*.

'*Sly*, an old batter'd Fox-hound, that began the 'Game in *France*.

'*Lightfoot*, a fine skinn'd *Flanders* Dog, that be- 'long'd to a Pack at *Ghent*; but having loſt Fleſh, 'is come to *Paris* for the Benefit of the Air.

'With ſeveral others, that in Time may be worth 'Notice.

'Your Familiar will ſee alſo, how anxious the 'Keepers are about the Prey, and indeed not with- 'out very good Reaſon, for they have their Share 'of every Thing; nay, not ſo much as a poor Rab- 'bet can be run down, but theſe carnivorous Curs 'ſwallow a large Quarter of it. Some Mechanicks 'in the Neighbourhood, that have entred into this 'civil Society (and who furniſh Part of the Car- 'rion and Oatmeal for the Dogs) have the Skin; 'and the Bones are pick'd clean by a little *French* 'Shock that belongs to the Family, *&c.* I am,

SIR,

Your humble Servant, &c.

'I had almoſt forgot to tell you, That *Ringwood* 'bites at *Hampſtead* with falſe Teeth.

Advertiſements.

☞ **The Painful or Running Piles, either Outward or Inward**, which do often end in Fiſtula's when negiected, are cur'd in three Days Time by a pleaſant ſpecifick Electuary, at 3 s. the Gally-pot, which is ſufficient for one Cure. Sold only by Mrs. Smith, who lodges at the Sun without Ludgate at the Corner of Bell-Savage-Inn, a Mercer's Shop.

☞ **Several Pieces of fine Plain Muſlin** to be ſold, at the Milliner's Shop next Storey's, going into St. James's Park, at Five Shillings and Five and Six-pence the Yard.

☞ **Bartlet of Goodman's-fields, whoſe Inventions for the Cure of Ruptures** have gain'd ſo univerſal an Eſteem, being improv'd to ſo great a Nicety, that one of his Steel Spring-Truſſes, of the largeſt Size, ſeldom exceeds 4 Ounces, and one of the ſmalleſt rarely exceeds a Quarter of an Ounce; and are ſo well adapted to the Shapes of human Bodies, that they are extraordinary eaſy even to new born Infants. He hath very lately made a new Diſcovery in the Art, and hath now a peculiar Method (unknown to any other) whereby no Rupture can fail of being kept up, tho' never ſo large. Alſo divers Inſtruments to help the Weak and Crooked. By P. Bartlet, at the Golden Ball by the Ship Tavern in Preſcot-ſtreet in Goodman's-fields, London. His Mother, the Widow of the late Mr. Chriſtopher Bartlet, lives at the Place above-mention'd, who is very skilful in the Buſineſs to thoſe of her own Sex.

☞ **An Incomparable Beautifying Cream for the Face**, Neck and Hands, takes away all Freckles, Spots, Pimples, Wrinkles, Roughneſs, Scurf, Morphew, Yellowneſs, Sun-burning, renders the Skin admirably Clear, Fair, and Beautiful, has an excellent pretty Scent; is very ſafe and harmleſs, and vaſtly tranſcends all other Things; for it truly nouriſhes the Skin, making it inſtantly look Plump, Freſh, Smooth, and Delicately Fair, though before Wrinkled and Diſcolour'd. Sold only at Mr. Lawrence's Toyſhop at the Griffin the Corner of the Poultry near Cheapſide, at 2 s. 6 d. a Gally-pot with Directions.

Juſt publiſh'd for the Month of Auguſt,

☞ **Atlas Geographus**: Or, A Compleat Syſtem of Geography, Ancient and Modern. From the beſt Authors with near Two Hundred Cuts, Maps, Sanſon's Tables, &c. Publiſh'd Monthly. This 16th finiſhes the United Provinces, contain Flanders, &c. With a neat and large Map of modern Belgium, or Lower Germany, containing all thoſe Parts. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Where may be had the 15 preceding Months. Pr. 1 s. each. Note, thoſe that take them in Monthly, are deſir'd to give in their Names to their Bookſeller to be printed, as Encouragers of the ſame, againſt Europe is finiſh'd, which will be in about 4 Months.

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*** **A New Set of Cuts for the Common Prayer**, 55 in Number, far exceeding any done in Great Britain before. Engraven by J. Sturt: And ſold by him in Golden-Lion-Court, Alderſgate-ſtreet; R. Whitledge in Ave-Mary-Lane; J. Morphew, and J. Hazard, near Stationers-Hall. Pr. 3 s.

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